

Replaced by WO 00/64778

invention is particularly suitable for such use, as will be shown in embodiments, because the individual medicament containers have the ability to lie flat against the elongate strip thus forming a compact series of medicament containers.

5 Another advantage provided by the present invention is that the use of the flat medicament container allows air to pass over the whole container surface when opened thereby improving drug removal. The design of the carrier has the further advantage that it reduces drug loss, caused by drug adherence to the top of conventional carriers when these are discarded on opening the carrier, by making all
10 of the drug available for delivery to the patient.

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide a simple means of packaging, presenting and accessing a variety of non-medical products, including food, beverages, disinfectants, toiletries, electrical, photographic and printing
15 products, as will be shown in the embodiments described herein.

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a carrier comprising an elongate strip having a first portion and a second portion; a fold between said first portion and said second portion such that the first portion contacts
20 the second portion; and a join between the first portion and the second portion, wherein said join and the fold form the edges of a pocket or pouch for containment of product.

In one aspect there is provided a carrier wherein the pocket or pouch comprises
25 folds therein. In another aspect, the pocket or pouch comprises contours or ridges therein.

In another aspect, there is provided a carrier additionally comprising a retainer within the pocket or pouch for retaining product thereon. The retainer is for example, a
30 mesh or sponge.

In a further aspect, each of the ends of the elongate strip has a non self-binding adhesive portion allowing reversible contact therebetween. Preferably each of the ends of the elongate strip has a peelable cover thereon. More preferably, removal of the peelable cover reveals an adhesive portion on each of the ends of the elongate strip. Most preferably, the adhesive portion enables attachment of the carrier to mammalian skin. Thus the carrier can be directly applied to the skin to administer medicament to the patient, thereby providing a simplified system for topical treatments with medicament and minimal risk of contamination or loss of medicament through non-target contact.

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In one aspect, there is provided a carrier comprising at least one further join forming at least one further pocket or pouch for containment of product.

In a further aspect, there is provided a carrier wherein the ends of the elongate strip form a pair of pull release tabs. Preferably each of the pull release tabs is shaped for ease of grip. More preferably, each of the pull release tabs has a looped end. Most preferably, each of the pull release tabs has at least one perforation therein.

In another aspect, there is provided a carrier additionally comprising a drawstring opening mechanism. Preferably the carrier comprises protruding release ends of the drawstring for opening thereof.

In a further aspect, there is provided a carrier in multi-unit form comprising a series arrangement of a plurality of carriers as described above. Preferably each of the carriers is connected together. More preferably, each of the plurality of carriers is formable from the same elongate strip. Most preferably, the strip has a point of weakness between each carrier in the series arrangement. Suitably, each pocket or pouch is foldable to lie flat alongside the elongate strip.

In one aspect, there is provided a carrier wherein the elongate strip is flexible. Preferably the elongate strip comprises material selected from the group consisting

of metal foil, an organic polymeric material and paper. More preferably, the strip comprises a laminate.

In another aspect, there is provided a carrier wherein the join is formable by a joining
5 method selected from the group consisting of heat, laser, radio frequency, adhesive, staple, stamp, pressure and ultrasonic sealing. Suitably the join is peelable to enable peelable access to the pocket or pouch.

In a further aspect, there is provided a carrier comprising a medicament therein.
10 Preferably the medicament is in dry powder, tablet, liquid, paste, cream or capsular form. More preferably the medicament is selected from the group consisting of albuterol, salmeterol, ipratropium bromide, fluticasone propionate and beclomethasone dipropionate and salts or solvates thereof and any mixtures thereof.

15 According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an inhalation device comprising a housing in combination with a medicament carrier as described above. Preferably the inhalation device comprises a release mechanism and the carrier comprises a pair of pull release tabs connected to the release mechanism. More preferably, the release mechanism is separable from the housing of the
20 inhalation device.

According to a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of making a carrier comprising forming a fold between a first portion and second portion of an elongate strip such that the first portion contacts the second portion; forming a
25 join between the first portion and the second portion wherein the join and the fold form the edges of an open pocket or pouch for containment of product; filling the open pocket or pouch with the product; and closing the open pocket or pouch by forming a further join.

Preferably there is provided a method of making a carrier in multi-unit form comprising successive iterations of the method described above to form a series arrangement of a plurality of carriers.

- 5 According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of opening a carrier as described above comprising pulling the pair of pull release tabs in order to enable access to the pouch.

In a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided the use of a carrier, as
10 described above, for dispensing medicament. Preferably the use of the carrier is for applying medicament to skin. More preferably, the use is for the treatment of cuts, abrasions or infections of skin. Optionally, the use is for dispensing slow-release formulations of medicaments via the skin.

- 15 In a preferred aspect, the medicament is used in the treatment of respiratory disorders. More preferably the medicament is used in the treatment of asthma. Most preferably the medicament is salbutamol or albuterol.

In one aspect, there is provided a carrier comprising an electronic component
20 therein. Preferably the electronic component is selected from the group consisting of semi-conductor, integrated circuit chip, fuse and battery.

In another aspect, there is provided a carrier comprising a food therein. Preferably the food is selected from the group consisting of meat, mycoprotein, milk, cheese,
25 flour, pasta, rice, oil, sugar, confectionery, vegetable, herbal, snack, convenience and fruit foodstuffs.

In a further aspect, there is provided a carrier comprising a beverage therein. Preferably the beverage is selected from the group consisting of water, milk, coffee,
30 cocoa, tea, fruit, carbonated and alcoholic drinks.

group consisting of spermicide, estrogen, ethinyl estradiol, progesterone, levonorgestrel and norgestrel.

In one aspect, there is provided a carrier comprising a medical instrument therein.

5 Preferably the medical instrument is selected from the group consisting of scalpel, thermometer and syringe.

In another aspect, there is provided a carrier comprising laboratory equipment therein. Preferably the equipment is selected from the group consisting of dispenser

10 tip, microbial filter, filter paper, aseptic container, petri-plate, vial, test tube, tissue-culture vessel and pipette.

In a further aspect, there is provided a carrier comprising a catemenial product therein. Preferably the catemenial product comprises a tampon.

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In one aspect, there is provided a carrier comprising nicotine therein.

Preferred embodiments of the medicament carrier according to the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

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Figure 1a is a perspective sideview of a first medicament carrier in accordance with the present invention in the closed and perpendicular configuration.

Figure 1b is a perspective sideview of the first medicament carrier in accordance

25 with the present invention in the open configuration.

Figure 1c is a perspective sideview of a second medicament carrier in accordance with the present invention in the closed and perpendicular configuration.

30 Figure 1d is a perspective sideview of the second medicament carrier in accordance with the present invention in the open configuration.

Claims

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1. A carrier comprising an elongate strip having a first portion and a second portion; a fold between said first portion and said second portion such that the first portion contacts the second portion; and a join between the first portion and the second portion, wherein said join and the fold form the edges of a pocket or pouch
10 for containment of product.

2. A carrier according to claim 1, wherein said pocket or pouch comprises folds therein.

15 3. A carrier according to either of claims 1 or 2, wherein said pocket or pouch comprises contours or ridges therein.

4. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 3, additionally comprising a retainer within the pocket or pouch for retaining product thereon.

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5. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein each of the ends of the elongate strip has a non self-binding adhesive portion.

6. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein each of the ends of the
25 elongate strip has a peelable cover thereon.

7. A carrier according to claim 6, wherein removal of said peelable cover reveals an adhesive portion on each of the ends of the elongate strip.

30 8. A carrier according to any of claims 5 to 7, wherein the adhesive portion enables attachment of the carrier to mammalian skin.

9. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 8 comprising at least one further join forming at least one further pocket or pouch for containment of product.

5 10. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the ends of the elongate strip form a pair of pull release tabs.

11. A carrier according to claim 10, wherein each of said pull release tabs is shaped for ease of grip.

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12. A carrier according to either of claims 10 or 11, wherein each of the pull release tabs has a looped end.

13. A carrier according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein each of the pull release
15 tabs has at least one perforation therein.

14. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 13, additionally comprising a drawstring opening mechanism.

20 15. A carrier according to claim 14, additionally comprising protruding release ends of said drawstring for opening thereof.

16. A carrier in multi-unit form comprising a series arrangement of a plurality of carriers according to any of claims 1 to 15.

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17. A carrier according to claim 16, wherein each of said plurality of carriers is connected together.

18. A carrier according to claim 17, wherein each of said plurality of carriers is
30 formable from the same elongate strip.

19. A carrier according to claim 18, wherein said strip has a point of weakness between each carrier in said series arrangement.

20. A carrier according to any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein each pocket or
5 pouch is foldable to lie flat alongside the elongate strip.

21. A carrier according to any claims 1 to 20, wherein the elongate strip is flexible.

22. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 21, wherein the elongate strip
10 comprises material selected from the group consisting of metal foil, an organic polymeric material and paper.

23. A carrier according to claim 22, wherein the strip comprises a laminate.

15 24. A carrier according to any one of claims 1 to 23, wherein the join is formable by a joining method selected from the group consisting of heat, laser, radio frequency, adhesive, staple, stamp, pressure and ultrasonic sealing.

25. A carrier according to any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the join is peelable
20 to enable peelable access to the pocket or pouch.

26. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a medicament therein.

27. A carrier according to claim 26, wherein said medicament is in dry powder,
25 tablet, liquid, paste, cream or capsular form.

28. A carrier according to either of claims 26 or 27, wherein said medicament is selected from the group consisting of albuterol, salmeterol, ipratropium bromide, fluticasone propionate and beclomethasone dipropionate and salts or solvates
30 thereof and any mixtures thereof.

29. An inhalation device comprising a housing in combination with a medicament carrier as claimed in any of claims 26 to 28.

30. An inhalation device according to claim 29, wherein the inhalation device
5 comprises a release mechanism and the carrier comprises a pair of pull release tabs connected to said release mechanism.

31. An inhalation device according to claim 30, wherein the release mechanism is separable from the housing of the inhalation device.

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32. A method of making a carrier comprising forming a fold between a first portion and second portion of an elongate strip such that said first portion contacts said second portion; forming a join between said first portion and said second portion wherein said join and the fold form the edges of an open pocket or pouch for
15 containment of product; filling said open pocket or pouch with said product; and closing said open pocket or pouch by forming a further join.

33. A method of making a carrier in multi-unit form comprising successive iterations of the method of claim 32 to form a series arrangement of a plurality of
20 carriers.

34. A method of opening a carrier as claimed in claims 10 to 28 comprising pulling the pair of pull release tabs in order to enable access to the pouch.

25 35. Use of a carrier according to any of claims 26 to 28, for dispensing medicament.

36. Use of a carrier according to claim 35, for applying medicament to skin.

30 37. Use of a carrier according to claim 36, for the treatment of cuts, abrasions or infections of said skin.

38. Use of a carrier according to claim 35, for dispensing slow-release formulations of medicaments via the skin.

5 39. Use of a carrier according to claim 35, wherein said medicament is used in the treatment of respiratory disorders.

40. Use of a carrier according to claim 39, wherein the medicament is used in the treatment of asthma.

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41. Use of a carrier according to claim 40, wherein said medicament is salbutamol or albuterol.

42. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising an electronic
15 component therein.

43. A carrier according to claim 42, wherein said electronic component is selected from the group consisting of semi-conductor, integrated circuit chip, fuse and battery.

20 44. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a food therein.

45. A carrier according to claim 44, wherein said food is selected from the group consisting of meat, mycoprotein, milk, cheese, flour, pasta, rice, oil, sugar, confectionery, vegetable, herbal, snack, convenience and fruit foodstuffs.

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46. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a beverage therein.

47. A carrier according to claim 46, wherein said beverage is selected from the group consisting of water, milk, coffee, cocoa, tea, fruit, carbonated and alcoholic
30 drinks.

48. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a toiletry therein.

49. A carrier according to claim 48, wherein said toiletry is selected from the group consisting of toothpaste, soap, mouthwash, shampoo, skin and face cream.

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50. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a cleanser therein.

51. A carrier according to claim 50, wherein said cleanser is selected from the group consisting of soap, detergent, enzymic preparation and organic solvent.

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52. A carrier according any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a disinfectant therein.

53. A carrier according to claim 52, wherein said disinfectant is selected from the group consisting of sterilant, antiseptic and bleach.

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54. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a light-sensitive material therein.

55. A carrier according to claim 54, wherein said light-sensitive material
20 comprises a photographic film.

56. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a marking material therein.

25 57. A carrier according to claim 56, wherein said marking material is selected from the group consisting of toner, ink, dye, pigment, acid and alkali.

58. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a covering material therein.

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59. A carrier according to claim 58, wherein said covering material is selected from the group consisting of paint, pigment, dye, corrosion inhibitor, electrical conductor, electrical insulator and static inhibitor.

5 60. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a toy therein.

61. A carrier according to claim 60, wherein said toy is selected from the group consisting of model, figure, doll, animal, jigsaw and game.

10 62. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising haberdashery therein.

63. A carrier according to claim 62, wherein said haberdashery is selected from the group consisting of button, bobbin, needle, pin, eye, hook and fastener.

15 64. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a tool therein.

65. A carrier according to claim 64, wherein said tool comprises a domestic tool.

20 66. A carrier according to claim 65, wherein said domestic tool is selected from the group consisting of can opener, bottle opener, ring-pull opener, scissors, knife, fork and spoon.

67. A carrier according to claim 64, wherein said tool comprises a home maintenance tool.

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68. A carrier according to claim 67, wherein said home maintenance tool is selected from the group consisting of nail, screw, pin, wire, screwdriver, knife, brush, spanner, ruler and marker.

30 69. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising stationery therein.

70. A carrier according to claim 69, wherein said stationery is selected from the group consisting of pencil, pen, ruler, crayon, eraser, marker, stencil, protractor, compass and paper.
- 5 71. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising an adhesive therein.
72. A carrier according to claim 71, wherein said adhesive bonds materials selected from the group consisting of paper, plastic, wood, rubber, glass and metal.
- 10 73. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising an agrochemical therein.
74. A carrier according to claim 73, wherein said agrochemical is selected from the group consisting of herbicide, insecticide, fungicide, rodenticide, nematocide, acaricide and plant growth regulator.
- 15 75. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a plant seed therein.
76. A carrier according to claim 75, wherein said seed is derived from plants selected from the group consisting of monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants.
- 20 77. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a contraceptive therein.
- 25 78. A carrier according to claim 77, wherein said contraceptive is either a contraceptive device or a contraceptive drug.
79. A carrier according to claim 78, wherein said contraceptive device is selected from the group consisting of condom, diaphragm, sponge and coil.

80. A carrier according to claim 78, wherein said contraceptive drug is selected from the group consisting of spermicide, estrogen, ethinyl estradiol, progesterone, levonorgestrel and norgestrel.

5 81. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a medical instrument therein.

82. A carrier according to claim 81, wherein said medical instrument is selected from the group consisting of scalpel, thermometer and syringe.

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83. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising laboratory equipment therein.

84. A carrier according to claim 83, wherein said equipment is selected from the
15 group consisting of dispenser tip, microbial filter, filter paper, aseptic container, petri-plate, vial, test tube, tissue-culture vessel and pipette.

85. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising a catemenial product therein.

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86. A carrier according to claim 85, wherein said catemenial product comprises a tampon.

87. A carrier according to any of claims 1 to 25, comprising nicotine therein.

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88. A carrier as substantially herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

89. An inhalation device as substantially herein described with reference to the
30 accompanying drawings.